



FACT SHEET

Where can I get Information about Lead-Based Paint and Lead Poisoning?

Lead poison hazards have long been a problem in the state of Louisiana, particularly for children under the age of six (6) years. Recent research has shown that lead is toxic in children at extremely low levels (10-15 µg/dl). The routes of entry of lead into the body are ingestion (eating paint chips or soil) or inhalation of lead dust. The U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control (USOPH/CDC) rated lead poisoning as the most common devastating environmental disease of young children under the age of six (6) years.

Lead-based paint was used extensively in public facilities, private homes, and child-occupied buildings before its use was banned by the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) in 1978. Of the 77 million homes built before 1980, about 57 million, or 75% have been painted with lead-based paint.

In response to this serious public health problem, in 1993, the Louisiana Legislature mandated the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop and implement a program to address lead hazards associated with lead-based paint. The DEQ program, which began in 1994, has the following two-fold purpose:

1. To establish and implement rules that govern lead-based paint activities; and
2. To establish and implement a public outreach program in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHH), the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service (LCES), and other state and local entities that will inform the citizens of Louisiana of lead-based paint hazards.

The following table lists state agencies involved in various lead-based paint programs.

AGENCY	ROLE	CONTACT PERSON(S)	PHONE NUMBER
DEQ-Registration & Certification-LEAD	Compliance and Public Outreach	Kathryn Berry	(225) 219-3023
LCES	Information/Public Outreach	Parish extension home economist	Check your local parish government listing under Extension Service-LSU Agricultural Center
DHH Sanitarian Services	Testing houses after a child is diagnosed with an elevated blood lead level	Local Health Unit	Check your parish health unit listing
DHH/Office of Public Health	Childhood Lead Poisoning/Steps to take after an elevated blood lead level has been determined in a child	Rhonda Smith Charlie Myers	(504) 568-5043 (504) 568-5070

If you are living in an older home (pre-1978) and plan to do any remodeling or refinishing, please pick up a copy of the EPA pamphlet (Reducing Lead Hazards When Remodeling Your Home) (EPA 747-R-94-0002 4/94). This pamphlet explains about pre-testing, proper equipment use, safe work practices, and cleanup. The pamphlet also provides a checklist and a list of helpful contacts to assist you in getting the job done properly. The pamphlet is available at many local retail outlets or from the DEQ Lead Program. The LCES also has an excellent fact sheet, (Removing Lead-based Paint in Homes) (pub. 2564), available from your parish office of the cooperative extension service.